



## The Book of Judges

### Second Generation Failure

Lesson 2

#### The Mercy of Judgement

- God's judgement declares he will no longer drive out the nations Joshua left behind. Judges 2:21. The job remains half-finished.

Question: Have you ever experienced in your life something half done? Was it difficult to handle?

- God used this difficulty to accomplish two things for Israel.
  1. He will use them to test Israel to see if they will keep the way of the Lord.
  2. The nations the Lord left...he did this only to teach warfare to the descendants of the Israelites who had not had previous battle experience.

God used these circumstances to show mercy by allowing other nations to drive Israel into dependence on him.

Question: Has God allowed circumstances in your own life to show His mercy and bring you into dependence on him? Give an example of that.

#### The First Three Judges

##### **Judge Othniel**

Read Judges 3:7-11

The Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord. God calls out this evil in a twofold decision.

1. They turn away from him, or forgot.
2. They serve mini-lords, or false gods.

Important! Remembering and forgetting have a spiritual significance. Read Psalm 25:6. Not remembering is sin. Read Isaiah 64:9.

Question: How do you remember God's mercy and love in your own life?

Revival comes to Israel through Othniel. God sends a spiritual leader. Israel cries out to God. He saves them. The leader dies.

Question: We cannot force or fabricate revival – we have to cry out for it. What is your heart crying out for?

### **Judge 2: Ehud (the left-handed rescuer)**

Read Judges 3:12-30

Othniel was a typical leader, a warrior from a family of faithful men. On the other hand, Ehud is a surprising choice – yet he's God's choice.

Question: We clearly see God calling the unexpected to be His leader in such a time as this. What is God calling to you about in your life? What leadership roles is he asking you about?

Question: When in your own experience have you seen God using unexpected people and/or unpredictable means to do great things?

### **Judge 3: Shamgar**

What was significant about Shamgar was the weapon he used. An ox goad was a strong pole about 8 feet long. At one end was a sharp metal point.

Question: Shamgar didn't complain about what he had for a weapon. He stepped into it. He stands his ground. How about you? What is God calling you to stand for?

Give whatever tools you have to the Lord, stand your ground courageously and trust God to use what's in your hand to accomplish great things for His glory.

Next week: read Judges 4 & 5